

10. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

11. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

12. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:1.

13. (New) A method of increasing drought resistance of a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, wherein the polynucleotide expresses the protein in an amount sufficient to increase the drought resistance of the plant, and wherein the drought resistance of the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

14. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

15. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

16. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

17. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

18. (New) A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase

activity into the plant, wherein the polynucleotide expresses the protein in an amount sufficient to increase the resistance to high salt concentration in the plant, wherein the resistance to high salt concentration in the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

19. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

20. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

21. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

22. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:1..

23. (New) A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, wherein the polynucleotide expresses the protein in an amount sufficient to increase the resistance to high salt concentration in the plant, and wherein the salt resistance of the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.